

sites for land-use planning purposes, as well as a better understanding of "how the Earth works."

As such, I rise today to recognize the American Geological Institute's adoption of October 10th through October 16th, 1999, as "Earth Science Week." Earth Science Week was initiated last year by the American Geological Institute as a way to educate society about the Earth, the earth sciences, and the importance of earth scientists' work in solving the challenges we face with providing for the prudent management of our resources.

This week, an Earth Science Week activity is taking place in schools in every state, and to date, 25 states have made official Earth Science Week proclamations, including my home state of Wyoming.

Therefore, let it be known that:

Geology and the other earth sciences are fundamental to the safety, health, and welfare of the United States economy and its citizens.

The earth sciences are integral to finding, developing, and on serving mineral, energy and water resources needed for the Nation's continuing prosperity.

The earth sciences provide the basis for preparing for and mitigating natural hazards such as earthquakes, floods, and landslides.

The earth sciences are crucial to environmental and ecological issues ranging from water and air quality to waste disposal.

The earth sciences contribute directly to our understanding and appreciation of Nature.

Geological factors of resources, hazards, and environment are vital to land management and land use decisions.

Mr. Speaker, our ever-changing world challenges us to wisely manage the earth and its resources. During this week, let us pay tribute to the important role that earth science plays in the economic success, safety, and welfare of this Nation.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, the September 21 earthquake that devastated Taiwan was a horror story. More than 2,000 people lost their lives, over 100,000 people were left homeless, and Taiwan's financial loss was in the billions of dollars. But the world reached out to Taiwan, delivering help quickly to this valuable member of the global community. The spontaneous outpouring of assistance to Taiwan and the earthquake's victims continuous today. Taiwan's government has been doing all that it can to help the victims of the earthquake, providing them financial and other forms of assistance to help them rebuild their lives, homes and businesses.

Despite the devastation of the earthquake, Taiwan has once again demonstrated to the world that it appreciates foreign assistance and has pledged to repay the international community whenever they can. Taiwan's comprehensive effort to help its people is a sound example of how a democracy keeps its citizens' welfare at heart.

Notwithstanding the earthquake. Taiwan has every good reason to be proud on its National Day. Taiwan appreciates its generous friends from other countries and its government and people are unified in their goal of rebuilding a modern Taiwan after the earthquake.

TRIBUTE TO FALLEN OFFICERS IN TEXAS

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, this past Tuesday will be remembered as one of the darkest in the history of the town of Pleasanton in Atascosa County, TX. Three brave officers of the law fell in the line of duty. Two others received wounds. I rise to pay tribute to these men and their families for enduring the ultimate sacrifice. It is appropriate for all of us in this House to pause and reflect on this terrible tragedy.

While news reports are still coming in, the story appears to unfold as follows. Late Tuesday night, officers from the Atascosa County Sheriff's Department, the Pleasanton Police Department, and the Texas Department of Public Safety responded to what turned out to be a bogus call alleging a domestic dispute near Pleasanton, a small and close-knit community south of San Antonio. Two Atascosa Sheriff's deputies, first Thomas Monse, then mark Stephenson, arrived at the scene, only to meet a storm of high-powered gun fire from an assailant who made the phony call. The shooter, who had been out of jail only a few hours on a domestic abuse arrest, allegedly then took the deputies' own guns and executed them. These officers never had a chance.

Next to arrive on the scene was Texas state trooper Terry Miller, sent in to find out why the first two did not respond to calls from the dispatcher. He got there almost twenty minutes after Officer Stephenson and had just enough time to radio in the shooting of the first two deputies. But he too was shot and killed in the ambush.

When dozens of officers responded to Trooper Miller's call, the assailant, still hiding in some nearby underbrush, shot two more officers before he was surrounded. He then apparently took his own life as the two wounded officers were flown by helicopter for treatment in San Antonio.

This tragic event, during which over 100 rounds of ammunition were fired, leaves us in great sadness, with more questions than we can answer. We cannot bring back Officers Miller, Monse, and Stephenson, who bravely gave their lives to ensure that others would be safe. But we can honor their memory and convey our deep condolences to the love ones they left behind.

Officer Miller, the first Texas trooper killed since 1994 and the 74th trooper killed in the line of duty, leaves behind a wife and two children, ages 13 and 22 months. Officer Monse, a former Bexar County deputy, leaves behind a wife and four children. Officer Stephenson, who also served our nation in the military for

seven years, leaves behind a wife and three children.

To the two wounded men, Atascosa County deputy Carl Fisher and Pleasanton police officer Luis Tudyk, we wish the best in a speedy recovery.

This unfortunate incident sends a reminder to us all of the dedication of law enforcement officers who each day leave the security of their homes and families to serve those in need all across America. Their sacrifice keeps us free.

KHALISTAN LEADER DR. AULAKH TO BE NOMINATED FOR NOBEL PRIZE

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, at the recent convention of the Council of Khalistan, held October 9 and 10 in New York, the delegates passed a resolution to nominate Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, for the Nobel Peace Prize. I believe that he would be an excellent candidate.

Dr. Aulakh's organization leads the struggle to liberate Khalistan, the Sikh homeland, from Indian occupation. It is committed to peaceful action to achieve that goal. While the Indian government continues to murder, kidnap, and torture Sikhs, Dr. Aulakh has been a clear and strong voice for freedom.

Dr. Aulakh would be an excellent recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. I urge the Nobel Prize committee to act favorably on his impending nomination.

Mr. Speaker, I will place the Council of Khalistan's resolution nominating Dr. Aulakh for the Nobel Prize into the RECORD.

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING DR. GURMIT
SINGH AULAKH FOR THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

PASSED AT THE CONVENTION OF THE COUNCIL OF
KHALISTAN OCTOBER 9-10, 1999, RICHMOND
HILL, N.Y.

Whereas Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, has worked tirelessly to liberate the Sikh homeland, Khalistan;

Whereas Dr. Aulakh is committed to promoting a Shantmai Morcha, or peaceful agitation, to liberate Khalistan, as well as free and fair plebiscite;

Whereas Dr. Aulakh and the Council of Khalistan have consistently rejected militancy as a means of liberating Khalistan;

Whereas Dr. Aulakh's efforts have helped to expose Indian genocide against the Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, Dalits, and others; and

Whereas he has worked with the U.S. Congress, the American media, the United Nations, and the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization to promote the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent movement for Sikh freedom;

Therefore be it Resolved by the delegates of this convention to the Council of Khalistan:

That we recommend Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh for the Nobel Peace Prize; and

That his name should be submitted to the Nobel Prize Committee at the first opportunity.